

Extra! Extra!

Volume 1, Issue 2

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March 1, 2012



Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over

From ICJI's Traffic Safety Division-

In an effort to reduce the number of crashes, injuries and fatalities on Indiana roadways this March, state and local law enforcement agencies are conducting an Operation Pull Over Blitz to deter impaired and dangerous driving behaviors. This high-visibility crack-down on impaired and dangerous driving known as "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over," will take place March 2-18 covering the Big Ten Basketball Tournaments, the St. Patrick's Day holiday, and other sporting events during the month of March.

In Indiana, in 2011, during the St. Patrick's Day holiday period* there were 39 alcohol-related crashes involv-

ing a driver w/ BAC of 0.08 or higher – of that number, one person was killed. Also in 2011, during the month of March there were 392 collisions in Indiana involving an impaired driver. Of that number 8 people were killed involving drivers or motorcycle riders with BACs of 0.08 or higher.

Over the next 17 days, more than 250 state and local law enforcement agencies will deploy sobriety checkpoints, saturation patrols, and other enforcement tactics that are designed to detect and remove impaired drivers from the roads. Officers will also be on the lookout for aggressive drivers – that is, those who speed, run red lights, tailgate and commit other traffic violations.

In March 2011, during Indiana's two-week blitz period,

there were a total of 633 DUI arrests made. Yet according to the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (ICJI), eight fatalities occurred in last March due to an impaired driver and/or motorcyclist with a BAC of 0.08 or higher. While last year's arrest numbers are encouraging, there were still eight fatalities that occurred, which more than likely could have been prevented.

**Note: Holiday Period is defined as March 16-18, 2011*



Substance Abuse Division

well versed when it came to what goes around, but am amazed at the amount of people that "blog" about their "plant food use". One site had a post telling others the "best way to snort a line." Not to mention how closely related this product is to cocaine and the high that you get from it. Most of the websites that I visited indicate whether the ingredients are legal, but also have a disclaimer that each user needs to

check their local and state laws. Some provide refunds while others do not. Apparently the "powder" comes in white or pink, but most say white is better... It is a scary time when people use TOXIC substances to gain a high. So much for my research on where the product is and the amount of danger it causes. I was caught up in the ease of accessibility and had to share.

Inside this issue: Changes and Updates

Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over	1
Substance Abuse Division	1
A look inside Hancock County	2
Did You Know	3
Upcoming Dates/Events	3

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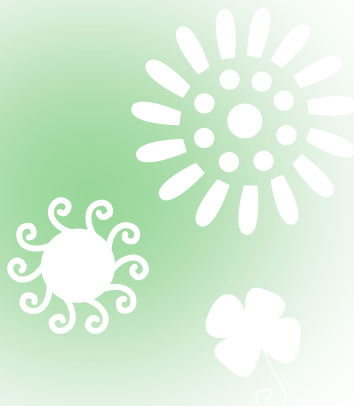
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Synthetics-

Wow-am I amazed at all of the solicitations for synthetic drugs. I learned of a new synthetic on the "market" and wanted to research the effects and where this new "Pump it Up Powder" was hitting. I queried the title with bath salts and was ASTOUNDED at the websites selling this stuff. More than just selling, they accept comments from their users. I thought I was pretty





Spotlight on Hancock County's LCC

NASA Receives Drug Free Communities Support Grant

NASA (Neighborhoods Against Substance Abuse) was named as one of only 87 new DFC grantees nation wide for 2011-12 funding under the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration. Only 47 of the awarded coalitions were Year 1 awards. One was Year 2, and 39 were Year 6.

Our coalition is excited about being a part of the highest scoring "class" in DFC history. The funding is renewable annually for a total of five years.

These funds will be utilized for community trainings, education, media campaigns, parent packets, awareness materials, and other activities designed to increase the capacity of our community to address the youth sub-stance abuse issues in Hancock County. As we were told at our recent new grantee meeting, "Goal One is to SAVE LIVES!" We are excited to have the opportunity to partner with our community to do just that.



NASA in Partnership with Hancock County D.A.R.E., the Hancock County Sheriff's Department and Bell Mortuary conducted a Community Drug Toss that took approximately 200 lbs. of old or unused pills and liquids out of medicine cabinets throughout the county.

UDET C RESOURCES Spotlight: Underage Drinking Cost Sheets

The UDET C offers underage drinking costs sheets for the Nation, each of the 50 States and the District of Columbia. These costs sheets delineate the estimated costs that are incurred as a direct result of underage alcohol consumption in terms of youth violence, traffic crashes, property crime, injury, alcohol treatment and several other categories. These sheets can be found for review and download on our website at: www.udetc.org/UnderageDrinkingCosts.asp



Drug-Free Hoosiers

Want to make your workplace safer and more productive?

Become a Drug-Free Workplace!

Drugs can take a tremendous toll on your business. It's estimated that 87% of drug and alcohol abusers work at a small business. The costs can be huge: 50% of all Workers' Compensation claims can be linked to drug and alcohol use. By becoming a Drug-Free Workplace, you can save time, money, and make your workplace safer for all employees.

Drug-Free Hoosiers helps small businesses in Indiana become Drug-Free Workplaces through substance abuse training, education, and free or reduced-cost drug testing.

Whether you need random testing, pre-employment testing, DOT drug testing, one-on-one Drug-Free Workplace coaching, or help writing your Drug-Free Workplace policy, we can help.

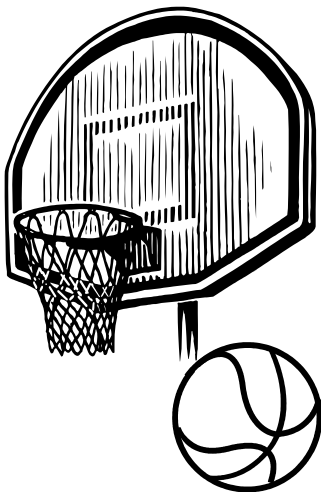
Drug-Free Hoosiers is made possible with a grant from the Small Business Administration, and is managed by Figment Group, Inc. Figment Group is an official Drug-Free Workplace resource for the US Department of Labor, the Indiana Small Business Development Center, and a member of the Drug and Alcohol Testing Association.

Visit www.drugfreehoosiers.com for more information or 219-326-8880



The Governor's Commission for a Drug-Free Indiana

March Madness



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Did you Know

From Join Together at
www.drugfree.org:

Prescription Drug Abuse Costs

Medicare and private health insurance companies pass on the cost of prescription drug abuse to consumers in the form of higher premiums, according to the [Coalition Against Insurance Fraud](#).

According to a 2007 report by the group, the cost of prescription painkiller abuse for insurers is \$72.5 billion. Most of the cost comes from treatment, in the form of visits to the emergency room, rehabilitation, and associated health problems, [CNN Money](#) reports. Medicare and health insurance companies also pay for the costs of the drugs themselves. The coalition says the average "doctor shopper"—a person who goes from doctor to doctor collecting prescriptions for the same drugs—costs insurers between \$10,000 and \$15,000 per year. A study published in 2011 in the [Clinical Journal of Pain](#) found prescription drug abuse led to \$42 billion in costs related to lost productivity, as well as \$8.2 billion in criminal justice costs.

"There's no doubt that this is a growing cost to society," Kevin Sabet, a former senior advisor at the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, told [CNN Money](#). "We're in the midst of an epidemic, and it's really time for America to wake up."

NIDA Launches New Low-Literacy Drug Abuse Website

The National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA) recently launched a new website aimed for a 4th – 6th grade reading level that provides information on drug abuse and treatment for adult audiences. This website, [Easy-to-Read Drug Facts](#), was created using NIDA's original research on how adults with low literacy use the Internet. Adult learners and instructors at the [Academy of Hope](#) and [Literacy Volunteers and Advocates](#) in Washington, D.C., provided valuable input during the site's creation. The website's language, navigation, design, and additional features are all thoughtfully designed to address the most common barriers to accessing information.

The site, titled "Easy-to-Read Drug Facts" provides easy-to-read, evidence-based explanations of how drugs affect bodies and brains, and serves as a helpful resource for individuals looking to help themselves or their loved ones address problems of drug abuse. Additional user-friendly features include engaging videos explaining key aspects of drug abuse and addiction. The website provides audio versions of each page without the need to download any software. Users can see the text highlighted as it is being read.

Grant Opportunities –still available

Due March 22, 2012

Drug Free Communities Support Program
Visit www.samhsa.gov/grants for more information

Due March 29, 2012

Sober Truth on Preventing Underage Drinking Act (STOP Act)
Visit www.samhsa.gov/grants for more information

Upcoming Dates and Events

March Awareness

March 2-18, 2012

Operation Pull Over Blitz-St. Patrick's Day

March 18-24, 2012

National Inhalants and Poison Awareness Week

March 21, 2012

National Kick Butts Day

Training

Electronic Training-Looking at Underage Drinking Data:

What do the Numbers Tell us?

Thursday March 15, 2012 3:00pm-4:15pm EST

Commission Meetings:

11:00am-1:00pm Indiana Government Center South

March 27, 2012

CCP/Updates due April 1, 2012

Allen, Dubois, Grant, Hamilton, Jennings, Randolph